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CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. An electronic device comprising:

a user-interface feature configurable to have a selected orientation about at least a first axis;

a detection mechanism to detect orientation information about the electronic device; and

one or more components configured to select the orientation of the user-interface feature

5 based on the detected orientation information, and to configure the user-interface

feature according to the selected orientation, wherein the selected orientation is based

on at least a first reference point on the first axis.

1 2. The electronic device of claim 1, wherein the user-interface feature is

2 symmetrically disposed about a first axis, and wherein the selected orientation

defines a reference indication on the first axis.

1 3. The electronic device of claim 1, wherein the user-interface feature is

2 symmetrically disposed about a first axis and a second axis, and wherein the

selected orientation defines a first reference indication on the first axis, and a

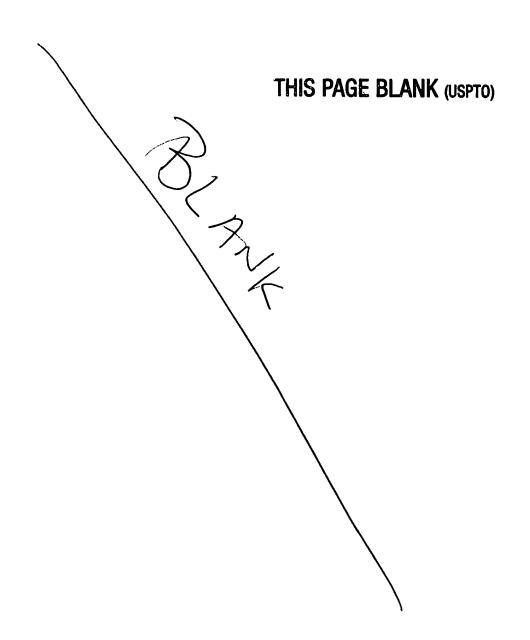
4 second reference indication on a second axis.

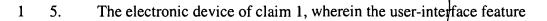
1 4/ The electronic device of claim 2, wherein the user-interface feature

2 / includes a display, and wherein the one or more components select the

orientation by selecting a top-down-direction on the first axis for displaying

4 content on the display.





- 2 includes a set of buttons disposed symmetrically about the first axis, wherein
- 3 the one or more components include a processor that selects the orientation of
- 4 the set of buttons by specifying a reference indication that/defines a position of
- 5 each button relative to the first axis, and wherein the processor assigns a
- 6 function from a set of functions to each of the plurality of buttons based on the
- 7 position of each button.
- 1 6. The electronic device of claim 1, wherein the one or more components
- 2 include a processor.
- 1 7. The electronic device of claim 1, wherein ϕ ne or more components
- 2 include a display driver.
- 1 8. The electronic device of claim 1, wherein the detection mechanism
- 2 includes a plurality of sensor areas that detect user-contact.
- 1 9. The electronic device of claim 8, wherein the plurality of sensor areas
- detect orientation information by being individually actuatable so that one or
- 3 more actuated sensor areas form a select portion of the plurality of sensors that
- 4 combine to define the orientation information.
- 1 10. The electronic device of claim 1, wherein the detection mechanisms
- 2 includes a first actuatable surface and a second actuatable surface, wherein
- 3 orientation information is detected by determining which of the first and second
- 4 actuatable surface is actuated by user-contact.

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- 1 11. The electronic device of claim 10, wherein the orientation is selected so
- 2 as to configure the user-interface feature for left-handedness of right-
- 3 handedness when one of the first or second actuatable surfaces is actuated.
- 1 12. The electronic device of claim 1, wherein the user-interface feature is a
- 2 handwriting input mechanism, and wherein the one or more components include
- a processor that selects the orientation of the handwriting input mechanism to be
- 4 either for a left-handed user or a right-handed user depending on the orientation
- information detected by the detection mechanism,
- 1 13. The electronic device of claim 10, wherein the plurality of sensor areas
- 2 are arranged to detect a user's hand orientation when the user grips the
- 3 electronic device.
- 1 14. The electronic device of claim 1, wherein the user-interface feature
- 2 includes a digital input feature of a display, and wherein the one or more
- 3 components configure the user-interface feature according to the selected
- 4 orientation by determining a position of the digital input feature on the display.
- 1 15. The electronic device of claim 1, wherein the one or more components
- 2 select the orientation of the user-interface feature based on the detected
- 3 orientation information only if the electronic device is first determined to not
- 4 have been in active use for a set duration of time.
- 1 16. A method for configuring a electronic device, the method comprising:

- 2 detecting at least one user-contact in a plurality of possible detectable user-
- 3 contacts with the electronic device;
- 4 interpreting an orientation for a user-interface feature from the detected one or
- 5 more user-contacts; and
- 6 configuring the user-interface feature according to the interpreted orientation.
- 1 17. The method of claim 16, wherein interpreting an orientation for a user-
- 2 interface feature from the detected/one or more user-contacts includes
- determining a reference indication of the user-interface feature about one or
- 4 more axes from the one or more contacts.
- 1 18. The method of claim 17, further comprising determining reference
- 2 indication about one or more axes that the user-interface feature is
- 3 symmetrically disposed about.
- 1 19. The method of claim 17, wherein determining the reference indication
- 2 includes determining a direction for content appearing on a display.
- 1 20. The method of claim 17, wherein configuring the user-interface feature
- 2 according to the interpreted orientation includes assigning an action to each
- 3 button in a bufton set using the reference indication.
- 1 21. The/method of claim 16, wherein detecting at least one user-contact in a
- 2 plurality of possible detectable user-contacts with the electronic device includes
- detecting a first button press from a set of at least two or more possible button
- 4 presses

- 1 22. The method of claim 16, wherein detecting at least one user-contact in a
- 2 plurality of possible detectable user-contacts with the electronic device includes
- detecting a grip configuration of a user from one or more sensors on a housing
- 4 of the electronic device.
- 1 23. The method of claim 16, wherein interpreting an orientation for a user-
- 2 interface feature includes determining a top-down vertical orientation for a
- display on the electronic device, and wherein configuring the user-interface
- 4 feature includes configuring the display so as to display content according to the
- 5 top-down vertical orientation.
- 1 24. The method of claim 16, wherein interpreting an orientation for a user-
- 2 interface feature includes determining a right-left horizontal orientation for a
- display on the electronic device, and wherein configuring the user-interface
- 4 feature includes configuring the display so as to display content according to the
- 5 right-left horizontal orientation.
- 1 25. The method of claim 16, wherein interpreting an orientation for a user-
- 2 interface feature includes identifying the orientation of a digital input
- 3 mechanism on a display of the electronic device.
- 1 26. The method of claim 25, wherein identifying the orientation of a digital
- 2 input mechanism on a display of the electronic device includes selecting a
- 3 position of a handwriting input area on the display of the electronic device.

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- 1 27. The method of claim 26, wherein identifying the orientation of a digital
- 2 input mechanism on a display of the electronic/device includes selecting an
- 3 arrangement of multiple character entry boxes for the handwriting input area
- 4 appearing on the display.
- 1 28. The method of claim 16, where n interpreting an orientation for a user-
- 2 interface feature includes identifying/a reference indication for the user-
- 3 interface feature based on the detected one or more user-contacts.

- 1 29. An electronic device comprising:
- 2 a display disposed symmetrically about one or more axes, the display being configurable to
- have a selected orientation based on a reference indication on the one or more axes;
- 4 a detection mechanism to detect orientation information of the electronic device in use; and
- 5 one or more components configured to automatically determine the reference indication and
- to select the orientation of the display based on the determined reference indication.
- 1 30. The electronic device of claim 28, where the reference indication identifies at least
- 2 one of a top-down direction or right-left direction of the display.
 - 31. An electronic device comprising:
 - a set of actuatable surfaces disposed symmetrically about one or more axes, the set of actuatable surfaces being configurable to have a selected orientation based on a reference indication on the one or more axes;
 - a detection mechanism to detect orientation information of the electronic device in use; and one or more components configured to automatically determine the reference indication and to select the orientation of the set of actuatable surfaces based on the determined reference indication
- 1 32. The electronic device of claim 31, wherein the orientation of the set of actuatable
- 2 surfaces defines an action assigned to each button in the set of buttons.